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Cruel.

response to signals received from the CMTS 106 through the transmission medium 104. The data stream 202 may comprise a series of MPEG data frames formatted according to International Telecommunication Recommendation ITU-T J.83 where each MPEG data frame comprises a header 212 and payload 214. The payload 214 of one or more MPEG data frames may encapsulate a downstream DOCSIS MAC frame 204. A downstream DOCSIS MAC frame may have a payload comprising a MAC management message 205. --

At page 9, please replace paragraph 0035 with the following:

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--In an embodiment illustrated with reference to Figures 3a and 3b, the MAC Management Message Header 210 of MAC Management Message 205 may comprise a series of CRC bits as a header check sequence (HCS). Accordingly, logic in a downstream MAC may validate the HCS prior to forwarding the MAP Message Payload 208 for processing as illustrated by example with reference to Figure 4.--

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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